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corner Oak, Wichita, Kansas.

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Surgeon, Dentist, Teeth extracted without  
pain. Best and artificial teeth made. Office  
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Dr. J. C. Dean,  
Dentist, Opposite the postoffice. Teeth ex-  
tracted without pain. 12-13

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Dentists, Office over Barnes & Son's drug  
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Geo. T. Thompson,  
Professional Piano and Organ Teacher. Ref-  
erences: Catherine Russell and Thomas Shaw  
& Co. All plans taught by the latest system.  
Only one method that will give you a good  
effect and make you a musician. Will give  
lessons at home or in my studio. Will give  
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The Photographer, Pictures in all sizes and  
styles. He also carries the finest assortment  
of picture frames in the city. Give him a  
friendly call and examine samples. 4-5-11

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C. A. Wilson, M. D., J. H. Threlkeld, M. D.,  
Physicians and Surgeons, Wichita, Kan.  
Office corner of Main and First streets, over  
Gardner's restaurant, Platte, Kansas. All  
calls in city or country promptly attended  
by day or night.

Barbours in Real Estate.

J. F. Stafford,  
Dealer in  
Guns, Pistols and Ammunition

INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

The Official Investigation Into  
the Labor Troubles of  
the Country

By the Select Congressional  
Committee Begun at  
Washington.

Master Workman Powderly Was the  
First Witness Called, and He  
Responded at Length.

Giving a Succinct Statement of Con-  
ditions Which Led to and Sur-  
round the Labor Issues.

Together with the Plans and Purposes of  
the K. of L. Organization—Food  
in Massachusetts.

INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

The True Inwardness of the South-  
west Labor Problem Com-  
ing to Light.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20.—The special committee of the house of representatives to inquire into the labor troubles in the southwest, today held its first public session. The committee consists of ex-Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, chairman, Messrs. Burns of Missouri, Crain of Texas, Outwater of Ohio, Stewart of Vermont, Parker of New York, and Buchanan of New Jersey. All the members were present except Mr. Stewart.

Among the prominent persons in attendance were, as representative knights of labor, William O. McDowell, members of the executive board; as representatives of railroads, John W. Foster, and as representatives of the Woman's League of America, Mrs. Charles Smith and three other ladies.

Mr. Powderly was the first witness sworn by the chairman. The chairman, addressing him, said: You understand that this committee is raised by the house of representatives for the purpose, if possible, of getting down to the bottom of the labor trouble, and disturbance that now exists in the country, especially as to conflicts between labor and capital, and employer and employee. Be pleased now to give to the committee your impressions as to said matter.

The examination of Mr. Powderly was continued, going over the history of the recent strike and troubles. It was quite interesting, but presented nothing new or remarkable.

While I was in the west, said Mr. Powderly, I heard from the men of little abuse which I do not think the manager of the Missouri Pacific railway knew anything about. Along the Iron Mountain road there was a system of taking 25 cents a month from the wages of men who receive \$1 a day and 50 cents from the wages of those who receive \$2 a day, and so on in proportion to the amount of their pay, for what they call a hospital fund. Then the men claim that the hospital fund is 25 cents a month, and that they are to be paid for it when they are discharged and denied the right of entering the hospital.

There are instances, which can be proved, where men have made contracts to buy land from the company on regular yearly instalments, and have paid all but the last instalment, were discharged from the employment of the company.

What have thought on the subject is different from the east. Men can't go into the next town and get a situation, and the consequence has been, in at least one particular case, the man was obliged to remain idle so long that he lost his property. The men claim that there are several instances of that kind.

The chairman—Can you have witnesses called before the committee to show these facts?

Mr. Powderly—Undoubtedly, if I am correct.

Mr. Buchanan—In your inquiries you have found that these cases of discontent exist?

Mr. Powderly—Yes.

Chairman—Will you state the purpose of the organization of the Knights of Labor, and its purposes are the protection of the interests of labor, and whether it is peaceful in its action.

Mr. Powderly—The aim of the organization of the Knights of Labor is to benefit the laborer and serve a better feeling between him and his employer. All our methods are peaceful, we never counsel against a violent man. A number of our organization may once in a while commit acts of violence—we cannot help that—it is a matter beyond our control; because, when men feel they have endured wrong there is a law which can properly restrain them. We aim to educate our members to intelligence and to make them their own grievances and that of employers.

It seems to me that until each party comprehends the other's wants, they cannot possibly settle their differences. We have no quarrel with legitimate employers. If you know that members of the Knights of Labor, along the railroads, have violated the laws of the land, or its own laws (and this is the case with the Knights of Labor), we are ready to assist in punishing them as we are in upholding their rights.

When a man is willing to explain everything in connection with the organization, if those who manage railroads, or if one man in particular, would do something to help him and truthfully, I have no objection to showing up everything connected with the organization. Its signs, rituals, words and everything else.

I have everything to come and I have from over 4,000 assemblies, letters of endorsement of a secret circular of mine which since its publication has been in public. These endorsements bear me out in what I have said; so that you can understand from the facts the true character of our organization.

When I stated our organization was willing to meet the committee before the committee I had no idea I was making a wrong statement. I believe the law of the land is higher than the law of the Knights of Labor, and that the law of the land is the law of the land, and that the law of the land is the law of the land.

Mr. Powderly—Yes; I am told also that along the Iron Mountain road, and along the other roads in parts of Texas the superintendents and foremen are interested in the company stores, and that men are compelled to deal in these stores. The men whose money is invested in the road know nothing of this. In many places double prices are charged in these stores. The committee will find proof of all these things.

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Our general organization has never given its  
general officers any power over strikes.  
At this point the committee adjourned.

A Disastrous Flood.

PITTSBURGH, Mass., April 20.—A terrible  
accident occurred at East Lee, resulting  
in a large loss of life and much  
damage to property. At 6 o'clock this  
morning the village was inundated and de-  
struction was breaking over the dam at the  
Mud Pond reservoir, in Mountain  
lake, two and half miles from the village.  
The pond, which is a large swampy  
land, and was increased from its regular  
limited size by extensive dams, built by a  
club of manufacturers at a store place for  
water.

The flood came pouring down the street,  
the water being from four to six feet deep,  
bringing with it trees, portions of houses,  
barns, fences, wagons, and every kind of  
movable property.

The people fled to the slopes of the valley,  
along which the torrent was pouring. The  
flood passed East Lee, and went on to  
destroying gardens, lawns, fences,  
and moving several buildings. It did not  
stop until it reached the village, where it  
destroyed the larger houses, though the damage  
done amounted to many thousands of dollars.  
The bodies recovered and buried in a  
sparsely inhabited country. Much stock,  
besides a great deal of property, was lost.

Railroad men were blamed as the cause  
of the disaster, and are searching for others. The scene is  
one of terrible desolation and the town of  
East Lee is a mass of ruins.

Late news just received from East Lee  
says that nine bodies have been found and  
that it is expected several more will be  
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